

On the synonymy of *Dactylopisthoides* Eskov, 1990 and *Uusitaloia* Marusik, Koponen & Danilov, 2001 (Araneae, Linyphiidae)

Andrei Tanasevitch¹, Yuri Marusik^{2,3,4}

¹ A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences, Leninsky prospekt 33, Moscow 119071, Russia

² Institute for Biological Problems of the North FEB RAS, Portovaya Str. 18, Magadan 685000, Russia

³ Altai State University, Lenina Pr., 61, Barnaul, RF-656049, Russia

⁴ Department of Zoology & Entomology, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein 9300, South Africa

Corresponding author: Yuri Marusik (yurmar@mail.ru)

Abstract

Two erigonine genera from East Siberia are synonymized: *Uusitaloia* Marusik, Koponen & Danilov, 2001, **syn. nov.** = *Dactylopisthoides* Eskov, 1990. Two new combinations are established: *Dactylopisthoides transbaicalicus* (Marusik, Koponen & Danilov, 2001), **comb. nov.** and *Dactylopisthoides wrangelianus* (Marusik & Koponen, 2009), **comb. nov.** both ex. *Uusitaloia*. The epigyne of *D. wrangelianus* is illustrated for the first time. A new, updated diagnosis of *Dactylopisthoides* is proposed. The copulatory organs of both sexes of *D. hyperboreus* and *D. wrangelianus* are illustrated by SEM images.

Key words: Asia, East Siberia, Erigoninae, new combination, taxonomy



Academic editor: Dragomir Dimitrov

Received: 25 September 2023

Accepted: 4 November 2023

Published: 21 November 2023

ZooBank: <https://zoobank.org/1E7795B9-D93A-4159-9BB0-027625B1B768>

Citation: Tanasevitch A, Marusik Y (2023) On the synonymy of *Dactylopisthoides* Eskov, 1990 and *Uusitaloia* Marusik, Koponen & Danilov, 2001 (Araneae, Linyphiidae). ZooKeys 1184: 291–299. <https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.1184.113255>

Copyright: © Andrei Tanasevitch & Yuri Marusik. This is an open access article distributed under terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License ([Attribution 4.0 International – CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)).

Introduction

The erigonine genus *Uusitaloia* Marusik, Koponen & Danilov, 2001 was established for *Uusitaloia transbaicalica* Marusik, Koponen & Danilov, 2001, a species that was described from the holotype male from the region of Lake Baikal, Buryatia, Russia (Marusik et al. 2001). The second congener, *U. wrangeliana* Marusik & Koponen, 2009, was described from Wrangel Island, Russia (Marusik and Koponen 2009). A detailed re-examination of the type materials of both *Uusitaloia* species has revealed that their conformation of the copulatory organs in both sexes is similar to that of the generotype of the monotypic genus *Dactylopisthoides* Eskov, 1990, known from the upper reaches of the Kolyma River. This paper is aimed at (1) establishing a synonymy of these genera, and (2) providing an updated diagnosis of the genus *Dactylopisthoides*.

Material and methods

This paper is based on the collections deposited in the Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia (**ZMMU**), and the specimens that are temporary in the Zoological Museum of the University of Turku, Finland (**ZMUT**). Specimens preserved in 70% ethanol were studied using an MBS-9 stereo microscope. Photographs were taken using a SEM JEOL JSM-5200

scanning microscope at the ZMUT. Leg chaetotaxy is presented as follows: e.g., 2.2.2.1, referring to a number of dorsal spines on tibiae I–IV. Terminology of the copulatory organ sclerites largely follows Merrett (1963) as well as the authors indicated in the abbreviations given below.

Abbreviations

DSA	distal suprategular apophysis sensu Hormiga (2000);
EP	embolus proper sensu Saaristo (1971);
MM	median membrane sensu van Helsdingen (1965), = embolic membrane sensu van Helsdingen (1986) and Hormiga (2000);
MT	median tooth of DSA;
PP	posterior projections of lateral walls of epigyne sensu Saaristo and Tanasevitch (1996);
R	radix;
RT	radical tooth;
Tml	position of trichobothrium on metatarsus I.

Taxonomy

Class Arachnida Cuvier, 1812

Order Araneae Clerck, 1757

Family Linyphiidae Blackwall, 1859

Subfamily Erigoninae Emerton, 1882

***Dactylopisthoides* Eskov, 1990**

Dactylopisthoides Eskov, 1990: 4 (type species: *Dactylopisthoides hyperboreus* Eskov, 1990).

Uusitaloia Marusik, Koponen & Danilov, 2001: 89 (type species: *Uusitaloia transbaicalica* Marusik, Koponen & Danilov, 2001), syn. nov.

Diagnosis. The genus *Dactylopisthoides* is very similar to *Dactylopisthes* Simon, 1884, with the type species *D. digiticeps* (Simon, 1881). Both genera belong to the *Savignia*-genus group sensu Millidge (1977). The main diagnostic characters are as follows:

1. Formula of leg chaetotaxy: *Dactylopisthoides* – 2.2.2.1, vs 2.2.1.1 in *Dactylopisthes*;
2. Male carapace in *Dactylopisthoides* is unmodified, vs highly modified except for three Oriental species of which the generic assignment is doubtful;
3. Male palpal tibia in *Dactylopisthoides* is only slightly elongated dorsally, vs highly modified, sickle-shaped in *Dactylopisthes*, except for *D. mirabilis* (Tanasevitch, 1985), known from Kyrgyzstan (Tanasevitch 1985);
4. Epigyne in *Dactylopisthoides* with an opened fovea, its lateral walls with a distinct posterior projection on each (Figs 1F, 2F), vs fovea absent.

Description. Small to medium erigonine. Male total length 1.50–1.80, carapace 0.63–0.79 long. Female total length 1.53–1.75, carapace 0.6–0.68 long.

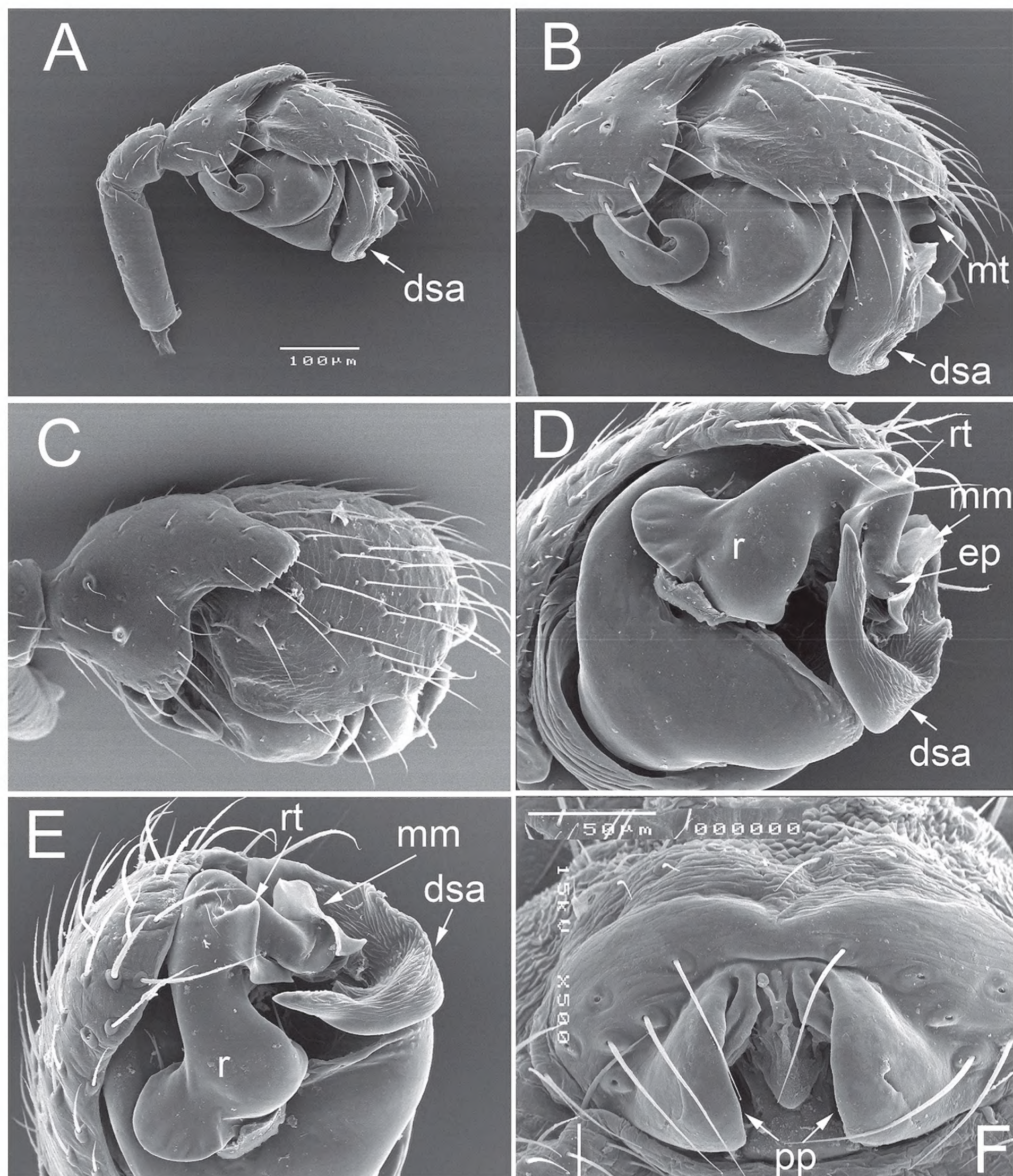


Figure 1. Details of the male palp (**A–E**) and epigyne (**F**) of *Dactylopisthoides hyperboreus* Eskov, 1990, specimens from the type locality **A–C** right palp, retrolateral (**A, B**) and dorsal view (**C**), respectively **D, E** bulb, lateral view, different aspects **F** epigyne, ventral view. Abbreviations: dsa – distal suprategular apophysis, ep – embolus proper, mm – median membrane, mt – median tooth, pp – posterior projections of lateral walls, r – radix, rt – radical tooth.

Carapace unmodified in both sexes. Formula of leg chaetotaxy 2.2.2.1, tibial spines short and weak. Metatarsi I–III each with trichobothrium. Tml 0.50–0.70. Male palpal tibia slightly modified, somewhat elongated dorsally. Paracymbium small and narrow, L-shaped, uncinat apically. Distal suprategular apophysis greatly enlarged, highly sclerotized, median tooth present. Embolic

division relatively large, radix curved, with small outgrowth (= radical tooth); embolus proper short, thick, covered with short median membrane. Epigyne with cavity, lateral walls with distinct posterior projection in each.

Comments. An analysis of both somatic and copulatory organ structures of the type species of *Uusitaloia* and *Dactylopisthoides* has revealed that they are undoubtedly congeneric: all the species in both genera are of a similar small size, possess the same chaetotaxy (2221) and trichobothriotaxy (I–III; Tml: 0.64–0.65), and are characterized by the same conformation of copulatory organs in both sexes, differing from each other only in minor details: cf. Figs 1–3. Thus, the genus *Uusitaloia* Marusik, Koponen & Danilov, 2001 is to be considered a junior synonym of *Dactylopisthoides* Eskov, 1990.

In the papers dealing with *Dactylopisthoides* (Eskov 1990) and *Uusitaloia* (Marusik et al. 2001; Marusik and Koponen 2009), the authors provided different tibial chaetotaxy even for different sexes. The reason for this appears to have been the small size of the spines, which could be easily overlooked (for further details, see Tanasevitch 2022).

Composition. The genus *Dactylopisthoides* currently consists of three very similar species: *D. hyperboreus* Eskov, 1990; *D. transbaicalicus* (Marusik, Koponen & Danilov, 2001) and *D. wrangelianus* (Marusik & Koponen, 2009).

Distribution. From north-eastern Transbaikalia to Wrangel Island (Fig. 4). Its occurrence in Yakutia and Kamchatka is very likely.

***Dactylopisthoides hyperboreus* Eskov, 1990**

Figs 1A–F, 3A, 4

Dactylopisthoides hyperboreus Eskov, 1990: 4, figs 1–6 (♂♀).

Types. Holotype ♂ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Magadan Area, the upper reaches of Kolyma River, Sibit-Tyellakh, *Pinus pumila* thickets, 14.IX.1985, leg. Y.M. Marusik. **Paratypes** (all in ZMMU): 2 ♀♀, collected together with the holotype; 4 ♂♂, 8 ♀♀, same habitat, 12.VII. 1985, leg. Y.M. Marusik; 1 ♂, upper reaches of Kolyma River, c. 10 km upstream of Vetrenny Vil., *Salix* thicket on *Carex* swamp, 5.VIII.1984, leg. K.Y. Eskov; 1 ♂, headwater of Kolyma River, Kulu River, mouth of Stokovy Creek, *Pinus pumila* thicket on scree, 11.VIII.1986, leg. Y.M. Marusik; 1 ♂, Detrin River (the right tributary of Kolyma River), c. 56 km upstream of the mouth, 30.VIII.1986, leg. Y.M. Marusik.

Comments. This species has been known from a single taxonomic entry.

Diagnosis. *Dactylopisthoides hyperboreus* seems particularly similar to *D. wrangelianus*. The male differs in the shorter dorsal tibial outgrowth (cf. Figs 1C and 2B) and a triangular radical tooth, vs stylet-shaped (cf. Figs 1E, 2E and Fig. 2A, B); the female differs in the wider fovea of the epigyne (cf. Fig. 1F and Fig. 2F). From *D. transbaicalicus*, it can be easily distinguished by the wider and shorter dorsal tibial outgrowth (cf. Fig. 1C and figs 40, 41, 43, 44 in Marusik et al. [2001]), as well as by the well-developed radical tooth of the embolic division (cf. Fig. 1E and Fig. 3C).

Description. See Eskov (1990).

Distribution. This species was described from several localities in the upper reaches of Kolyma River and Wrangel Island (Eskov 1990). Later, it was

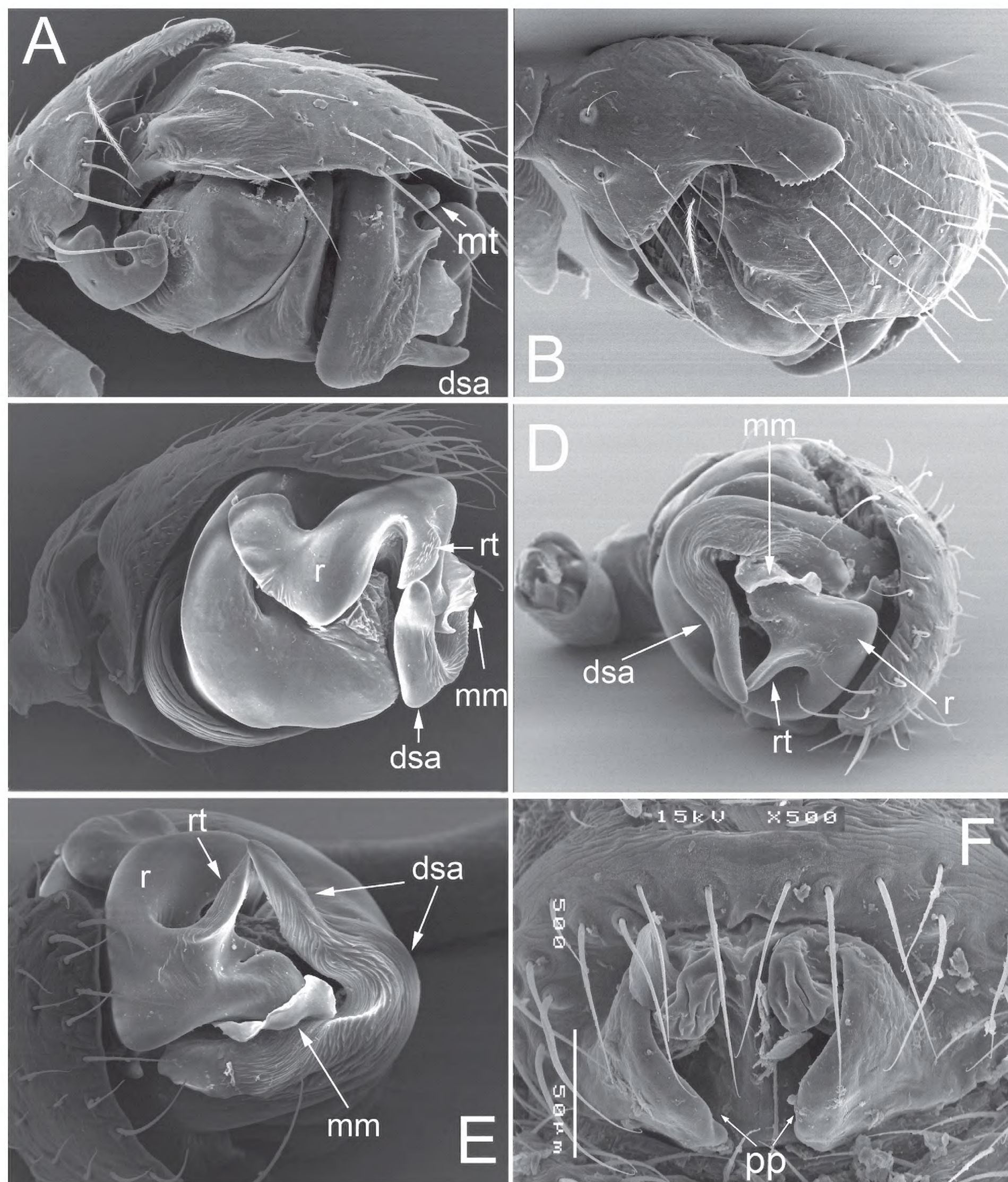


Figure 2. Details of the male palp (**A–E**) and female epigyne (**F**) of *Dactylopisthoides wrangelianus* (Marusik & Koponen, 2009), specimens from Mamontovaya River, Wrangel Isl **A–D** right palp, retrolateral, dorsal, ventral and frontal view, respectively **E** embolic division, frontal view **F** epigyne, ventral view. Abbreviations: dsa – distal suprategular apophysis, ep – embolus proper, mm – median membrane, mt – median tooth, pp – posterior projections of lateral walls, r – radix, rt – radical tooth.

reported from Chukotka Peninsula (Marusik 1993), Ola Plateau in the south part of Magadan Area (Marusik 2005). The records of *D. hyperboreus* from Chukotka Peninsula (Marusik 1993) are likely to be erroneous and may refer to *D. wrangelianus*.

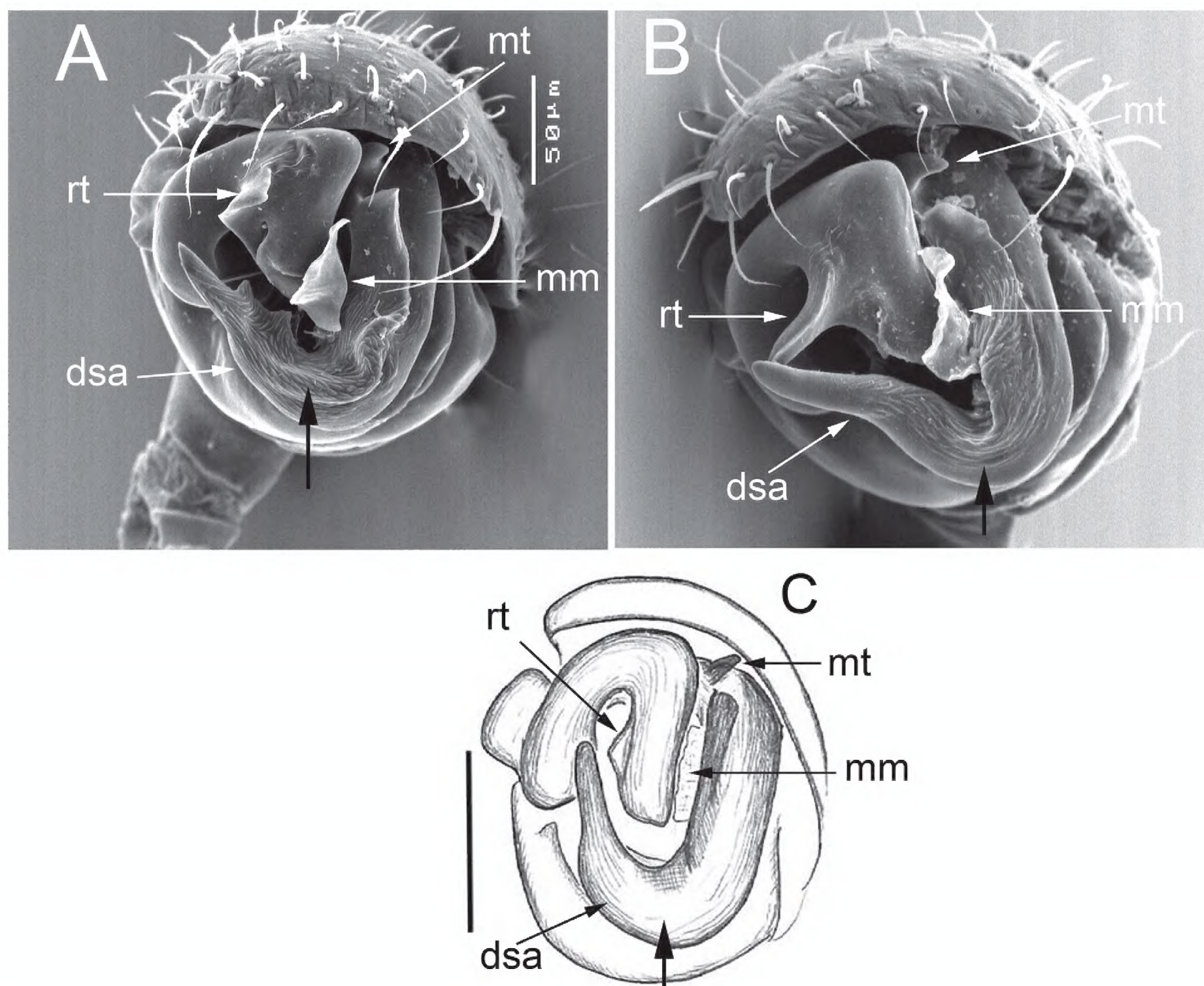


Figure 3. Frontal view of the embolic divisions of *Dactylopisthoides hyperboreus* Eskov, 1990 (A), *D. wrangelianus* (Marusik & Koponen, 2009) (B) and *D. transbaicalicus* (Marusik, Koponen & Danilov, 2001) [reproduced from Marusik and Koponen (2009)] (C). Abbreviations: dsa – distal suprategular apophysis, mm – median membrane, mt – median tooth, rt – radical tooth. Black, thick arrows show additional differences between species. Scale bar: 0.1 mm (C).

***Dactylopisthoides transbaicalicus* (Marusik, Koponen & Danilov, 2001),
comb. nov.**

Figs 3C, 4

Uusitaloia transbaicalica Marusik, Koponen & Danilov, 2001: 90, figs 39–48 (♂).
U. transbaicalica: Marusik and Koponen (2009): 21, figs 1c–e, 2a–c (♂).

Types. Holotype ♂ (ZMUT), RUSSIA, Buryatia, Barguzin Mt. Range, Olso River, 54°52'N, 110°55'E, 1650 m, 04.VII.1996, leg. M. Uusitalo.

Comments. No SEM figures are provided for this species, as it remains known from the holotype male only.

Diagnosis. From *D. hyperboreus* and *D. wrangelianus*, this species differs in having the longer and narrower dorsal tibial outgrowth (cf. figs 40, 41, 43, 44 in Marusik et al. [2001] and Figs 1C, 2B) and the reduced radical tooth of the embolic division (cf. Fig. 3C and Fig. 3A, B).

Distribution. Only the type locality, Transbaikalia, Russia.



Figure 4. Collecting localities of *Dactylopisthoides* species: *D. hyperboreus* (dot), *D. transbaicalicus* (diamond), *D. wrangelianus* (square), records of *D. hyperboreus* that could also refer to *D. wrangelianus* (triangle).

***Dactylopisthoides wrangelianus* (Marusik & Koponen, 2009), comb. nov.**
Figs 2A–F, 3B, 4

Uusitaloia wrangeliana Marusik & Koponen, 2009: 18, figs 1a, b, 2d, e (♂).

Types. **Holotype** ♂ (ZMMU), RUSSIA, Wrangel Isl., the upper reaches of Neizvestnaya River, 71°12.933'N, 179°19.353'W, 128 m, steppe-like mound #2, 06.VII–03.VIII.2006, leg. O.A. Khruleva. **Paratypes:** 1♂ (ZMMU), same locality, steppe-like, mound #3, 03.VII.–03.VIII.2006, leg. O.A. Khruleva; 2♂ (ZMMU, paratypes of *D. hyperboreus*) Wrangel Isl., lower reaches of Gusinaya River, gravel hilltop, 2.VII. 1984, leg. O.A. Khruleva; 1♂, 1♀ (ZMMU), middle reaches of Mamontovaya River, 22.VII–5.VIII.2015, leg. O.A. Khruleva.

Note. Since a single female of this species was used to obtain SEM photographs, its technical description was impossible to produce.

Diagnosis. *Dactylopisthoides wrangelianus* is most similar to *D. hyperboreus* (see above for diagnostic characters). From *D. transbaicalicus*, it differs in having a wider and shorter dorsal tibial outgrowth (cf. Fig. 2B and figs 40, 41, 43, 44 in Marusik et al. [2001]) and a well-developed radical tooth of the embolic division (cf. Fig. 3B, C).

Description. See Marusik and Koponen (2009).

Distribution. To date, this species is known from Wrangel Island only (Khruleva et al. 2022). Yet, the records of *D. hyperboreus* from Chukotka Peninsula (Marusik 1993) are likely to also refer to *D. wrangelianus*. There are also unpublished data (YM, personal data) about its occurrence in Chaun Bay in Chukotka. Unfortunately, the sample studied, represented by females, was lost.

Acknowledgements

We are deeply grateful to Kirill Mikhailov (Moscow, Russia) for allowing us to re-examine the corresponding types, Francesco Ballarin (Tokyo, Japan) and Dragomir

Dimitrov (Sofia, Bulgaria) for reviewing and editing our manuscript; YM is also indebted to Seppo Koponen and Ilari Sääksjärvi (Turku, Finland) for arranging his stay in Turku and allowing him to use museum facilities. Dmitri Logunov (Manchester, UK) edited English in the final draft of the manuscript. We also indebted to the Zookeys copy editor Christopher Glasby for valuable comments and corrections.

Additional information

Conflict of interest

The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

Ethical statement

No ethical statement was reported.

Funding

No funding was reported.

Author contributions

Conceptualization: AT, YM. Material collection: YM. Making illustrations and map: YM. Arrangement of the illustrations into the plates: AT. Writing – original draft: AT, YM.

Author ORCIDs

Andrei Tanasevitch  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9116-606X>

Yuri Marusik  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4499-5148>

Data availability

All of the data that support the findings of this study are available in the main text.

References

- Eskov KY (1990) On the erigonine spider genera *Dactylopisthes* Simon, 1884 and *Dactylopisthoides* gen. nov. (Arachnida, Araneae: Linyphiidae). *Reichenbachia* 28: 1–5.
- Hormiga G (2000) Higher level phylogenetics of erigonine spiders (Araneae, Linyphiidae, Erigoninae). *Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology* 609(609): 1–160. <https://doi.org/10.5479/si.00810282.609>
- Khruleva OA, Tanasevitch AV, Marusik YM (2022) Spiders (Aranei) of Wrangel Island, Russia. 1. New data on the species composition and distribution. *Arthropoda Selecta* 31(4): 501–525. <https://doi.org/10.15298/arthscl.31.4.12>
- Marusik YM (1993) Terrestrial invertebrates. In: Berman DI (Ed.) *Ecology of the Amgema River basin (Chukotka)*. Vladivostok 1: 164–185. [In Russian]
- Marusik YM (2005) Arachnids (Arachnida: Aranei, Opiliones) of northern Cisokhotia. *Evrasiatskii Entomologicheskii Zhurnal* 4(3): 187–208. [In Russian]
- Marusik YM, Koponen S (2009) A new species of *Uusitaloia* Marusik, Koponen & Danilov (Araneae: Linyphiidae: Erigoninae), a genus through to be monotypic, from the Wrangel Island NE Russia. *Entomologica Fennica* 20(1): 18–21. <https://doi.org/10.33338/ef.84455>
- Marusik YM, Koponen S, Danilov SN (2001) Taxonomic and faunistic notes on linyphiids of Transbaikalia and south Siberia. *Bulletin – British Arachnological Society* 12(2): 83–92.

- Merrett P (1963) The palpus of male spiders of the family Linyphiidae. Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London 140(3): 347–467. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-7998.1963.tb01867.x>
- Millidge AF (1977) The conformation of the male palpal organs of linyphiid spiders, and its application to the taxonomic and phylogenetic analysis of the family (Araneae: Linyphiidae). Bulletin – British Arachnological Society 4: 1–60.
- Saaristo MI (1971) Revision of the genus *Maro* O. P.-Cambridge (Araneae, Linyphiidae). Annales Zoologici Fennici 8: 463–482.
- Saaristo MI, Tanasevitch AV (1996) Redelimitation of the subfamily Micronetinae Hull, 1920 and the genus *Lepthyphantes* Menge, 1866 with descriptions of some new genera (Aranei, Linyphiidae). Berichte des Naturwissenschaftlich-Medizinischen Vereins in Innsbruck 83: 163–186.
- Tanasevitch AV (1985) New species of spiders of the family Linyphiidae (Aranei) from Kirghizia. Entomologicheskoe Obozrenie 64: 845–854. [In Russian]
- Tanasevitch AV (2022) A new erigonine genus and species from the Russian Far East (Aranei: Linyphiidae), with notes on chaetotaxy. Arthropoda Selecta 31(1): 111–114. <https://doi.org/10.15298/arthscl.31.1.13>
- van Helsdingen PJ (1965) Sexual behaviour of *Lepthyphantes leprosus* (Ohlert) (Araneida, Linyphiidae), with notes on the function of the genital organs. Zoölogische Mededeelingen 41: 15–42.
- van Helsdingen PJ (1986) World distribution of Linyphiidae. Proceedings of the Ninth International Congress of Arachnology, Panama 1983. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D.C., 121–126.